

Remarks

Claims 1, 4-6, 12-15, 17, 20-26, 68-91 and 118-152 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 3, 16, 92-117 are canceled and claims 7-11, 18, 19 and 27-67 were previously canceled. Claims 1, 14, 17, 20, 21 and 24 have been amended. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any canceled or withdrawn subject matter in one or more continuation or divisional applications.

Applicants initially provisionally elected group III, aptamers drawn to Factor IX, with traverse over Group IV, aptamers to Factor IXa, based on the argument that aptamers to Factor IX *include* aptamers to Factor IXa because Factor IXa is the active, truncated version of Factor IX. The Examiner has rejected this argument. Therefore, Applicants now elect to pursue Group IV, aptamer to Factor IXa, with traverse.

Applicants also elected SEQ ID NO:3 as a species to initially pursue. Applicants note that the Examiner has clarified that the sequence election is an additional restriction, not a species election, but that sequences that include the same nucleic acid sequence will be searched. Given this clarification, Applicants elect to pursue SEQ ID NO:70 as a nucleic acid to pursue in this application. As the Examiner noted, this sequence overlaps with SEQ ID NO:3, the species initially elected, and is an aptamer to Factor IXa.

Applicants note that the Examiner has restricted product and process claims but has stated that, upon allowance of a product claim, the process claims that include the limitations of the allowed product will be entered as a matter of right. Please note that the pending method claims include the subject matter of the pending product claims.

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Response to Office Action of April 18, 2005

Applicants believe no further fees are due with this response. However, should the Examiner determine that fees are due with this or any other response in this application, the Commissioner is authorized to withdraw any additional fees from Deposit Account 11-0980.

Respectfully submitted,



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